ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

SOUTH ALABAMA:

AND OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society,

HELD WITH THE

ULCONUSH BAPTIST CHURCH,

Clarke County, Alabama, 1855.

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THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

OF SOUTH ALABAMA.

The thirty-fifth Anniversary of this body was held with the Ulconush Church, in Clarke County, commencing on Saturday, October 6th, 1855.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at eleven o'clock by Elder JOHN TALBERT, from John xvi: 8 and 9 verses,

After a short intermission, the Delegates were called to order by the Moderator of the last Association, who introduced the services with singing and prayer by Bro. Platt Stout. Brothren R. D. Marshall and E. G. Talbert at the request of the Moderator, then proceeded to read the Letters from the Churches. The following are the churches and delegates composing the Association:

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.
1st District.	PIGEON CREEK	James Cleveland, W. R. Guyn,* A. J. Cleveland,*
	BASSETS CREEK	
	PARAN	
	EBENEZER	D. Mathews, G. White, Josiah Roberts.
	ULCONUSH	N. Malone, Thos. B. Pace, James Todd.
	HOREB	H. CREIGHTON, WM. HILL, J. S. Dickinson.
	SALEM	A. J. Benson, Thos. Robertson, Moody Bettes.*
	ROCKVILLE	E. B. Guyn, Josiah Jones,* R. J. Singleton.*
	AMITY	N. GOODWIN, Lewis Pope.
	MAGNOLIA	Zeno S. Parker, R. Singleton.
2d District.	NANAFALIA	JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Wm. G. Williams*
	UNION	L. Ethridge, Stephen S. Ethridge.
	ELIM	Not Represented.
	NEW HOPE	L. L. DEWIT, B. C. Foster, M, Upchurch.*
	SHILOH	G, E. Jones,* P. D. Stafford,* T. H Danning,* G B Jones.
	FRIENDSHIP	T. Tucker,* J M. Anderson,* John Autery.
	PISGAH	A. ADAMS,* Nathan Thomas,* R. M. Thomas.
	ENON	Eli Swereinzinge, James Morgin, Henry Autry.
	FOREST SPRING	Wm. Russell, J. Perry, R. S. Armsted.
	LIBERTY	T. J. Haltram, W. H. Lofton, W. N. Nickols *
4th District. 3d District.	LINDEN	B. Ringold,* James W. Tucker.*
	MT. PLEASANT	James Hildreth,* J. I. Westbrook, L Bush.*
	SPRING HILL	A. A. CONNELLA,* John Daughdrill.* James Daughdrill.
	PROVIDENCE	James Gainny, S. Madison,* W. G. Madison.*
	DAYTON	R. D. Marshall, J. P. Bruce. J. P. Creaghead.*
	FELLOWSHIP	W. J. PARKER, Lewis Simmons,* Wm. Fisch.*
	BETHEL	JOHN TALBERT, W. F. Perkins, E. G Talbert,
	HEBRON	J. REEVES, A. Holmes, C. W. Lee *
	CONCORD	Wm. Mathis,* Jesse Holmes,* Ansel Talbert.*
	BOILING SPRING	L. PARKES,* F. C. LOWREY,* W. Massey.*
	POPLAR SPRING	Not Represented.
	CANAAN	A. SALE,* J. P. VAUGHN,* B. R. Thomas,

NOTE—An (*) denotes absence—Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS.

Petitionary letters were then called for, when the following were presented: Forest Spring, Amity and Magnolia, which were received with their delegates and the right hand of fellowship extended in the usual form.

On motion, the rules stand suspended for the present, which was carried, when it was moved by Brd. J. Reeves that Bro. G. B. Jones be recognised as a delegate from Shiloh, and Bro. R. Singleton from Magnolia churches, which was carried.

The names of the delegates having been ascertained, the body went into the election of its officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder JEREMIAH REEVES, as Moderator, and G. B. JONES, as Clerk.

The Association being thus organized, the Moderator extended the usual invitation to visiting brethren to sit with us and aid us in our deliberations.

The Moderator then proceeded to appoint the following committees to report during the present session:

To Arrange the Religious Services.—R. D. Marshall, E. G. Talbert, and the Deacons of this church.

On Documents and Request.—H. Creighton, Lewis Ethridge and James Quinney.

On Finance and Auditing.—Wm. Russell. N. Malone, Thomas B. Pace.

On Correspondence—J. Talbert, Wm. G. Williams, Lewis Pope.

On Nominations.—N. Goodwin, J. Autry, J. I. Westbrook.

Digest of Letters.—James S. Dickinson, Zeno S. Parker, R. S. Armsted.

On motion, Bro. P. Stout was requested to address the Association at 10 o'clock on Monday, on the subject of his mission as Agent of the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

The Moderator called for Corresponding Letters from other Associations. None presented. The body then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Prayer by Bro. Dewit.

LORD' DAY, OCTOBET 7, 1855.

The exercises were conducted according to arrangements made at our last Association. A Missionary Sermon was preached by Br. J. Reeves, followed by Bro. H. Creighton, and a collection taken up amounting to $38 63, for Home Mission.

MONDAY MORNING, October 8.

At 9 o'clock the delegates assembled in the church and the business of the Association was introduced by singing and prayer by Bro. J. G. Williams.

On motion, the Rules of Decorum were then read.

On motion, Bro. Stephen S. Ethridge was received as a delegate from Union church.

The Roll was then called and absentees marked out.

The report of the Executive Board was called for, which was received and referred to a special committee, viz: Brethren J. G. Williams, E. G. Talbert, and John Talbert. [Appendix A.]

The hour having arrived according to appointment, Bro. Stout rose and addressed the Association on the object of his mission, in a very appropriate and forcible manner.

The report of the special committee was called for, received and adopted. [Appendix B.]

Bro. J. G. Williams offered a resolution by which will be held sixteen District Meetings instead of four, for the ensuing year 1856.

That in future each District composing the Bethel Association have their District Meetings to meet in their respective districts, at the same time—on the fith Lord's day and Saturday before, in each month that has five Sundays—this will be productive of sixteen District Meetings in each year instead of only four.

2d. And each district shall in future be entitled to the Executive Board when the Association meets in each and every district, the Board to be selected by each district and offered to and approved by the Association.

The 3d District Meeting for 1856 was appointed to meet with the Providence church: The 4th District Meeting for 1856, was appointed to meet the Bethel church.

The Treasurer's Report was then called for, read and referred to the committee on Auditing.

On motion, it was agreed that the B. B. and C. Society should hold its annual meeting at 2 o'clock, P. M.

On motion, we stand adjourned until 2 o'clock, to meet with B. B. and C. Society. Prayer by Bro. Dewitt.

The B. B· and C. Society having gotten through their business, the Association was called to order by Bro. Foster.

On motion, Bro. Parker was instructed to pay over the funds sent by him from Bro. S. Madison, funds in his hands for the aid of beneficiaries of Howard College, amounting to thirty-five dollars.

Correspondence was called for, when a circular from brother Dayton, Corresponding Secretary of the Bible Board, S. B. Convention was read.

The committee on Digest of the Letters, then reported, which was received and adopted. [Appendix C.]

On motion, discontinued correspondence with Choctaw Association.

The report of the Committee on Documents and Requests, was received and adopted. [Appendix D.]

The Committee on Nominations reported, which was adopted. [Appendix E.]

The committee appointed last meeting to report on the State of Religion, was received and adopted. [Appendix F.]

The committee on Temperance reported and the report was received and adopted. [Appendix G.]

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, Tuesday morning. Prayer by Bro. Goodwin.

Tuesday Morning, October 9.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Dewitt.

The report on Correspondence was called for, received and adopted.—[Appendix H,]

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That all the funds to be sent to the Convention be placed in the hands of Bro. John Talbert, who will pay it over to the proper persons entitled to receive it.

On motion, it was *Resolved*. That we dispense with a report on Indian Missions.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the funds now in the hands of the Financial Committee be paid over to the Treasurer, who will hold it subject to the order of the Executive Board.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Minutes of the B. B. and C. Society, be printed with the Minutes of this Association, they paying the proportionate part for printing.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we recommend to our brethren of the Bethel Association, of liberally patronizing the South Western Baptist, the Tennessee Baptist as faithful exponents of Baptist views; also Orchard's History of the Baptists, published by J. R. Graves, Nashville, Tennessee, price one dollar, post paid.

The Auditing Committee reported that they found the Treasurer's account correct, which was adopted. [Appendix I.]

On motion, the Financial Committee reported, which report was adopted. [Appendix J.]

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the accompanying table be placed in the Minutes. [Appendix K.]

Committees to report at next Association were then appointed by our Moderator, and concurred in by the body. [Appendix L.]

Report on Ministerial Education. [Appendix M.]

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes of this session, draw on the Treasurer for the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the same, and receive for his services the sum of thirty-five dollars.

Resolved, unanimously, That we tender to the brethren and citizens of this viciniuity our sincere thanks for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Association during its session.

The business of the body being finished at 12 o'clock on Tuesday, the Association adjourned to meet with the Pisgah church, Wilcox county, on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1856.

A parting hymn was sung, the parting hand extended and devout prayer offered to Almighty God, and the delegates separated for their respective homes.

JEREMIAH REEVES, Moderator.

G. B. Jones, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

A. Report of Executive Board.

To the Members of the Bethel Association:

Dear Brethren:—Your Executive Board, appointed at the last meeting of your body, for the present year, according to requisition upon them, now make their report of their doing.

At their first meeting they agreed to secure, if possible, the labors of Bro. Reeves and Talbert through the Associational year, at the rate of four hundred dollars a year; the Board being informed that the Board in Marion would pay half of Bro. Reeves' salary, on the Colored Mission, where we designed continuing him. Accordingly, we tendered the appointments to the above named brethren, which they accepted. Brother Talbert to labor

in the bounds of the first district and part of the second. The means in the treasury being short, prudence dictated we should only make engagements for a quarter at a time, and this is the course we persued.

The brethren reported quarterly, and received their pay quarterly, according to the time they had filled up. Brother Reeves' report for whole of services rendered, is as follows: Travelled 839 miles; made 62 family visits; preached 43 sermons; delivered 24 addresses; baptized 5; received 2 by letter. It is due here to say the Board, through Bro. Reeves, received a contribution of twenty-five dollars from Bro. A. Holmes; ninety dollars from the Boiling Spring church for the Colored Mission. The whole amount due Bro. Reeves from the Board, for services rendered up to the 30th June. At this date Bro. Reeves acknowledges himself and the Board even. The means in the treasury at that time being nearly exhausted, the Secretary was instructed to inform Bro. Reeves that this Roard could not be held responsible for pay for further services. It is just to say that Bro. Reeves had informed us if there were not means on hand, he would not charge the Board. As yet we have had no subsequent report, as such, we close this part of our report.

Brother Talbert commenced his labors in the field of his appointment on the 15th of December, and continued two quarters. Two months and a half, the first and second quarters, according to his reports, the prospects of religion in a general way was not flattering, however had some interesting meetings and met with some encouragment. By consent and assistance of the Ebenezer church, received and baptized 27 servants into its fellowship, living on the Bigby river in destitute region. The last quarter report more favorable times changed for the better, held many interesting meetings, attended some protractad meetings where goodly numbers were received and baptized. During whole service rendered, traveled 2,209 miles; preached 219 sermons with many exhortations. It is due to say, the last quarter Brother Talbert entered upon and performed the labors at his own risk, there not being means in the treasury to justify the Board in promising him pay, but by contributions from some two or three of the churches. Brother Talbert has received his pay in full; so brother Talbert and the Board is even. All of which is respectfully submitted. H. CREIGHTON.

B. Report of the Special Committee.

Your special committee to whom was referred the report of the Executive Board, beg leave to say:

1st. That as brother Reeves has been employed by the Board, that we recommend to the Association to pay him the balance of the money on hand, which is about eighteen dollars, and in as much as there has been about thirty dollars sent up for that specific purpose.

Your committee understood from the Executive Board that brother E. G. Baptist was not employed by the Board, therefere we cannot recommend the payment of his claim. J. G. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

C. State of the Churches.

PIGEON CREEK CHURCH, near Suggsville Clarke county—Is at peace and has regular prayer meetings; meets on the 2d Lord's day and Saturday before, in each month; has brother H. Creighton for pastor; baptized 1, received by letter, none; restored, none; dismissed by letter, 10; excluded 3;

dead, 1. Total, 42. Contributed for minutes, $1 50. Jerry Cleveland, church clerk.

EBENEZER CHURCH, near Grove Hill, Clarke county—Is at peace; laments the coldness of the members; received by baptism, 27; by letter 4; restored none; dead, 1; dismissed by letter, 2. Total, 59. Meets the 3d Sunday and Saturday before in each month; has brother A. Goodwyn for Pastor. Contributes for minutes, $1 75; J. A. Mathews, church clerk.

ULCONUSH CHURCH, near Coffeeville, Clarke county—Has some cheering news. Added to the church by baptism, 11; received by letter, 16; restored, 2; is at peace, and has large congregations; has for Pastor, brother John G. Williams. Meets the 2d Saturday and Sunday in each month.—Excluded, 7; dead, 4; Total, 221. Sends for minutes, $5; for Home Missions, $11 80, to be appropriated to destitute churches and neighborhoods in the lower part of the Association; for African Missions, $1 65. T. B. Pace, church clerk.

HOREB CHURCH, near Grove Hill, Clarke county—Has the Pastoral services of brother H. Creighton. Baptized, 7; received by letter, 6; dismissed, 6; excluded, 2. Total, 56. Meets the 4th Saturday and Sunday in each month; sends for minutes $2 50. W. T. Megginson, church clerk.

SALEM CHURCH, Clarke county—Is at peace; has fine meetinge; enjoys the Pastoral services of brother L. L. Dewit; baptized, 1; received by letter, none; dismissed by letter, 6; excluded, 3; dead, none. Total 58—Has a promising Sabbath School; meets 2d Sabbath in each month; sends for minutes, $3; for home missions, $3. E. Larrimore, church clerk.

ROCKVILLE CHURCH, near Jackson, Clarke county—Nothing of interest to communicate; meets 1st Sabbath in each month and Saturday before; has brother Creighton for Pastor; sends for minutes, $2. Jos. Jones, church clerk.

NANAFALIA CHURCH, near Nanafalia—Is at peace; has large and attentive congregations; meets on the 3d Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; has the Pastoral labors of brother John G. Williams; has prayer meetings once a month, and flourishing Sabbath School. Baptized 2; received by letter, 3; dismissed by letter, 33; restored, 1; dead, 4.—Total, 173—contributes for minutes, $4; for Missionary purposes, $13 05. T. J. Barnes, church clerk.

UNION CHURCH, near Sweet Water, Marengo county—Has nothing interesting to communicate; has the Pastoral services of brother L. L. Dewit; sends for minutes, $3; for Mission purposes in the limits of the Bethel Association, $6 70; for African Missions, 35 cents. Baptized 4; received by letter, 1; restored, 1; dismissed by letter, 6; excluded, 4; dead, 4.—Total, 155. R. H. Hudson, church clerk.

ELAM CHURCH, near Choctaw Corner, Clarke county—No letter or delegate.

NEW HOPE CHURCH, near Choctaw Corner, Clarke county—Is in a languid condition; asks the prayers of the Association; has the Pastoral services of brother L. L. Dewit, who preaches to large and attentive congregations, monthly, and has recently established a Bible Society with 42 members. Baptized 1; received by letter, 11; dismissed by letter, 9; excluded, 1; dead 1; Total, 151. Contributes for minutes, $4 50; for Home Missions $9 35. M. Upchurch, church clerk.

SHILOE CHURCH, near Shiloe, Marengo county—Has been blessed with God's love. Baptized 12; received by letter 14; restored, 3; dismissed by letter, 8; excluded 6; dead 3; Total 166. Sends for minutes, $5; for Home missions, $1 25; has the Pastoral services of brother T. Tucker. Meets the 3d Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; has one ordained minister, brother James Greene; one licentiate, brother C. J. Miles. D. D. Stafford, church clerk.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, near Hampden, Marengo county—Has been in a cold state, but had a meeting in September and continued nine days; enjoys peace; has the Pastoral sorvices of brother A. Sale. Meets the 2nd Sabbath in each month. Baptized 2, received by letter 2; excluded none; dead 4. Total, 64—Sends for minutes, $3; for Home mission, $5; for Bible cause, $1 50. J. L. Tucker, church clerk.

PISGAH CHURCH, near Bethel, Wilcox county—Has had a cold and wintry season, until the protracted meeting in August, the result of which brightened the prospects of the church; earnestly requests that the next Association may be held with her. Baptized 10; received by letter 3; dismissed by letter, 6; excluded 2; dead 2. Total, 85—Has brother H. Adams for Pastor—Meets the 3d Sabbath in each month. Sends for minutes, $2 50; for Domestic Mission, $22 05; for Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society, $1; Beneficiary Howard College, $1. Jos. W. Nicholson, church clerk.

ENON CHURCH, near Pine Hill, Wilcox county—Has nothing of interest to communicate—has Bro. Sale for Pastor—meets the 1st Sunday and Saturday before in each month; Baptised 8; received by letter 5; restored 2; dismissed by letter 3; excluded 4; dead 1; Total 67. Sends for minutes $2 50; for Bible cause 50 cents. M. Morgan, church clerk.

LIBERTY CHURCH, near Bashi, Clarke, county—Is not at peace; has Bro. T. Tucker for Pastor; meets 4th Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; baptized 5; received by letter 6; dismissed by letter, 6; total 43. Contributes for minutes $2. W. N. Nichols, church clerk.

LINDEN CHURCH, Linden, Marengo county—Is at peace; has nothing of interest to communicate; has the pastoral services of Bro. W. J. Parker; meets 1st Sabbath in each month; received by baptism 1; received by recantation 1; restored none; dismissed by letter 7; total 72. Sends for minutes $.1 B. Ringgold, church clerk.

MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH, at Jefferson, Marengo county—Has nothing of interest to communicate; has the Pastoral labors of W. J. Parker; holds her meetings the 2nd Sabbath in each month; has a Sabbath School and well attended; baptized 1; received by letter 4; dismissed 5; excluded 1; total 103. Sends for minutes $2 50. J. W. Smith, church clerk.

SPRING HILL CHURCH, at Spring Hill, Marengo county—Had no Pastor during the year; kept up a weekly prayer meeting and Sabbath school; received by letter 6; dismissed 2; expelled 1; total 204. Sends for minutes $1. L. B. Lane, church clerk. A. Connella M.

PROVIDENCE CHURCH, near Spring Hill, Marengo county—Has been blessed with a revival, which continued 8 days; has the pastoral services of Bro. W. J. Parker; has regular prayer meetings twice a month, and well attended; sends for minutes $2; baptized 4; received by letter 4; dismissed by letter 2; excluded 1; dead 1; total 57; meets Saturday before the 4th Sunday in each month; paid Beneficiary Howard College this year $70; W. G. Madison, Church Clerk.

DAYTON CHURCH, at Dayton, Marengo county—Has nothing of special interest to communicate; has the labors of Bro. Edward Baptist on the 1st Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; baptized 12; dismissed by letter 3; dead none; excommunicated none; total not mentioned; has a Sabbath School of some interest; sends for minutes $1; R. D. Markam Church Clerk.

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, near Demopolis, Marengo county—Baptized 7; received by letter 4; dismissed by letter 9; excluded 1; dead 2; total 71. Sends for minutes $2; for Bible Society $5; paid $90 Beneficiary to Howard College; $5 to Indian Mission; meets 3d Sabbath in each month; has W. J. Parker for Pastor; J. L. Stewart, Church Clerk.

HEBRON CHURCH, near Uniontown, Perry county—Is at peace; enjoys the pastoral services of Bro. L. L. Fox on the 1st, and 3d Sabbaths in each month, and Saturday before; received by letter 27; dismissed by letter 2; baptized 4; total 59; P. O. Liberty Hill; sends $30 for Colored Mission in the limits of the Association; $1 50 for minutes; J. Givham, Church Clerk.

CONCORD CHURCH, near Liberty Hill, Dallas county—Has nothing cheering to communicate; enjoys peace and harmony; has the pastoral labors of Bro. Levi Parks; baptized none; dismissed by letter 53; excluded 2; restored 1; total 106; sends for minutes $1; Association fund $8; meets 4th Sunday in each month; A. Talbert, Church Clerk.

BETHEL CHURCH, at McKinley, Marengo county—Has nothing of interest to communicate; is in a cold and declining state; has Bro. John Talbert for pastor; meets 1st Sabbath in each month; baptized 2; received by letter 2; restored none; dismissed by letter 4; expelled 5; total 117; sends for minutes $3; $25 50 for Domestic Mission; W. F. Perkins, Church Clerk.

POPULAR SPRING CHURCH, near Rehoboth, Wilcox county—Not represented.

BOILING SPRING CHURCH, near Creagh's Mills, Wilcox county—Is at peace; meets the 3d Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; has L. Parks for pastor; baptized 3; received by letter 6; dismissed 3; total 45; contributes for minutes $2; for Missionary purposes $15, within the bounds of the Association; J. Thomas, Church Clerk; P. O., Clifton.

CANAAN CHURCH, near Upper Peach Tree, Wilcox county—Had a protracted meeting in August; received a goodly number by baptism; meets the 4th Sabbath and Saturday in each month; has the pastoral services of Bro. Sale; sends for minutes $2; for Domestic Missions $7 25; for Bible and Colporteur Society $3 75; baptized 12. received by letter 7; restored 1; excluded 3, total 82; has 3 ordained ministers, Bros. Hickson, Vaughn and Sale; B. R. Thomas, Church Clerk.

MAGNOLIA CHURCH, at Jackson, Clarke county—was constituted Nov. 27th, 1854, by Bros. Creighton, Hill and Goodwyn; has Bro. Goodwyn for pastor; received by letter 7; total 21; sends for minutes $1 50: for Home Mission $2 50; Z. S. Parker, Church Clerk.

FORREST SPRING CHURCH, at Morvin, Clarke county—Was constituted the 22d of October, 1854, by brother John G. Williams and J. Reeves —has the Pastoral labors of brother B. W. Hearin. Baptized 17; received by letter, 15; Total 45. Ordained Ministers B. W. Hearin and William

Russell. Sends for minutes, $2 50; for Missionary purposes in the limits of the Association, $10; Meets the 4th Sunday and Saturday before in each month. Jas. W. Armstead, church clerk.

AMITY CHURCH, near Suggsville, Clarke county—Was constituted the 17te of September, 1855, by brothers Talbert Creighton and Hill; has had an interresting meeting; meets the 1st Sabbath and Saturday before in each month; has the Pastoral labors of brother Goodwyn. Baptized 11; received by letter 4; Total 25; sends for minutes, $2 15; for Domestic Mission, $10 50. W. A. Morris, church clerk.

SUMMARY.

Baptized during the year in the Churches heard from	176
Received by Letter	212
Restored	13
Total Increase	401
Dismissed by Letter	127
Excluded	47
Lost by Death	28
Total Decrease	202

ZENO S. PARKER,
R. S. ARMSTEAD,
JAMES S. DICKINSON.

D. Report on Documents and Request.

Your Committee on documents and requests having had the same under consideration, find a petition from the Pisgah Church, for the Association to meet with her at its next session. The Pigeon Creek Church states in her letter that John Shepard, an excluded member, refused to give up his letter when demanded. Appointments for District Meetings are as follows:—First district, at Rockville; second district, with the Pisgah Church; third district, Providence; fourth district, Bethel Church. All of which is respectfully submitted. H. CREIGHTON.

E. Report on Nominations.

Your committee on nominations reports

1*st.* *To preach the introductory sermon at the next Association*—Brother W. J. Parker; Brother Wm. Hill, alternate.

2*d.* *To preach the Missionary sermon*—Brother H. Creighton; Brother A. Sale, alternate.

3*d.* *To compose the Executive Board*—L. D. Godbold, J. Autry, B. R. Thomas, M. Wright, P. D. Stafford.

4*th.* *Treasurer of the Association*—Brother B. C. Foster.

5*th.* *Delegates to the Baptist State Convention*—Brethren J. Talbert, A. Homes, H. Adams, J. Reaves, W. J. Parker, A. A. Connella, C. W. Lee, N. Goodwin, E. G. Talbert and A. Sale.

6*th.* *Messengers to the Bethlehem Association*—Brethren H. Creighton, Wm. Hill, J. Talbert, N. Goodwin.

7*th*. *Messengers to the Alabama Association*—Brethren J. Reeves, A. Homes, E. G. Talbert.

8*th*. *Messengers to the Cahawba Association*—Brethren A. A. Connella, W. J. Parker, L. B. Lane, A. Homes, J. Reeves.

9*th*. *Messengers to the Pine Barren Association*—Brethren J. Talbert R. M. Thomas, N. Goodwin.

10*th*. *Messengers to the Little Bigby River Association*—Brother W. J. Parker, N. Malone, L. Ethridge, A. A. Connella, J. I. Westbrook.

11*th*. *Messengers to Liberty Association*—T. B. Pace, H. R Williams, N. Malone, and W. J. Parker. Respectfully submitted,

N. GOODWIN, Ch'mn.

F. Report on the state of Religion.

Your committee on the state of Religion have had the subject under consideration and beg leave to make the following report:

From all the sources of information to which we have had access, and from our own observation, we are led to the conclusion that Religion is not in so low a state as to discourage its friends, nor is it at that point of elevation and perfection that we desire to see it. Some of our churches have had refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord, while others are experiencing a cold and wintry season. Your committee are of opinion that there is not that amount of energetic action, self examination, humiliation and prayer, that is necessary to secure that state of prosperity among the churches of Christ which it is their privilege to enjoy, and which all the friends of Zion ardently desire to see, and which is the result of God's blessing on the right use of the means of grace. We would, therefore, suggest the propriety of each one composing this venerable body asking this solemn question in reference to himself: Lord what wilt thou have me to do, to promote the prosperity of thy kingdom? and then prayfully search the scriptures for the true answer, and then faithfully act it out with an eye single to the glory of God. All of which is respectfully submitted. J. REEVES, Ch'mn.

G. Report on Temperance,

To the Members of the Bethel Association:

Dear Brethren:—Your committee appointed to report on Temperance are aware they are not in possession of facts sufficient to enable them correctly to state what may be the present stage of the enterprise, whether on the advance or decline. But be this as it may, we conclude one grand hindering cause of the progress and triumph of temperance is the want of unanimity among its professed friends; we mean not as to principle, but policy. We would not detract one iota from the commendable and honorable efforts that have been made, whether by temperance organizations or private example, to suppress drunkenness and advance morality, believing in some measure it serves as a check and has done great, *at least, temporary* good; also preparatory to more effectual means. But we are convinced that by moral suasion alone, there will be no general or permanent reformation so long as the license law continues. We have known villages and neighborhoods by temperance movements and moral suasion reclaimed for a season; but we have seen reaction of the liquor flowing, the liquor vender coming forward under sanctions of law, raising the flood gate and inundating the place, corrupting the youth, entangling them again, some who had apparently es-

caped the pollution of Alcohol. We are pleased to see any move towards religion or morality, and this of course is the duty of all men to exert an influence to that end. But we believe as long as the present license law continues the pecuniary interests of men, their appetites and old habits will lead them to swell the tide of dissipation. But some will tell us the people are not prepared for a prohibitory law. And when, *we would respectfully inquire*, will they be prepared under the present license system? The fountain-head must be dried up, or the stream will wend its way some where. If it be entirely stopped in one channel, it will open another, and often seems to mock at the efforts of man to stop its course, giving evidence of its force and power and breaking over all his works. Why not be prepared to be relieved from one of the greatest curses the world has been groaning under for ages! Here at one glance we see enough of its ravages and awful results to fill volumes. The eyes would willingly turn away from such scenes and deeds of darkness; the heart sickens when the ear hears the heart-broken cries coming up from a thousand voices, and whose voices are these? The mother, the wife, the widow, the orphan. What heart is proof against these cries, which seem to say is there no relief? and let none suppose himself entirely secure from the contagion of this worse than upas tree, when set up in the street; for if this serpent may not fasten its fangs upon the vitals of some, or pour its poisonous virus into their veins, this it may do, this it has done—sent trouble to the heart and drawn tears from the eyes. Do not the people of this as well as other States of the Union claim to themselves to be a self-governing people, living under a democracy, making and repealing laws by and through their agents, their worthy Representatives and honorable Senators, who are in honor bound to obey the will of their constituents, that will being made known to them they being not constitutionally forbid.

And now, dear brethren, we, as your humble committee appointed by your body to report on temperance, would not assume the right to dictate, but chearfully submit the matter to the wisdom of the Association; but would take the liberty to respectfully recommend to every member of your body the propriety of consulting what may be the best means to adopt to procure a redress of grievance on account of the liquor traffic. Mordecai said to Esther on a certain occasion, "if thou altogether holdest thy peace, enlargement and deliverance shall arise to the same from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed." It would appear to us, in the present case, that in entire silence there would be criminality, yea, if we do not do all we can lawfully will it not be to us a sin? If Heaven puts into the hands of men the means and gives them the power to prevent crime, and they will not do it, are they not held accountable, are they not guilty and justly chargeable with those evils they might have prevented? Should not all awaken up to more sober thought and learn what may be their duty from the rules of duty as found in divine revelation? for while we are parleying and faultering and in a manner doing nothing, the work of destruction is going on. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—Sol.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

II. Report on Correspondence.

Your committee, who was appointed on correspondence, beg leave to report the following Letters:

Letter to the State Convention.
" " " Bethlehem Association.
" " " Pine Barron. "
" " " Alabama, "
" " " Liberty, "
" " " Little Bigby and Cahawba.

All of which is respectfully submitted. J. TALBERT, Ch'mn.

I. Treasurer's Report.

B. C. FOSTER, in account with the Bethel Baptist Association.

HOME MISSION FUND RECEIVED.

1854. Oct. 3,	Received from former Treasurer	$200	49
	Rec'd from Financial Committee of last Association,	57	16
	Rec'd from same committee. the collection on Sabbath,	45	23
	Rec'd from Bro. Reeves, money sent up by some blacks,	1	10
	Rec'd from Pigeon Creek church, by J. Cleveland	6	26
	Rec'd from District meeting at Horeb, by J. Daniel,	10	45
1855, Feb. 22	Rec'd from Dis't meeting at Nanafalia, by J. Talbert,	16	40
April 8	Rec'd from Ulconush church, by J. Talbert	26	50
" 29	Rec'd from Pisgah church, by J. Talbert	4	40
Oct. 1,	Rec'd from Bethel church, by J. Talbert	23	50
	Rec'd from Pigeon creek church, by J. Talbert	16	50
	Rec'd from Horeb church, by J. Talbert	14	00
	Total amount of this fund received	$421	99

1854, HOME MISSION FUND DISBURSED.

Oct. 18,	Am't paid J. Reeves by order of last Association,	$135	00	
1855, Mar 23,	Paid J. Talbert per order of Miss'y. Board,	100	00	
June 26,	" " " " "	100	00	
Oct. 1,	" " " " "	83	35	418 33
	Total amount of this fund disbursed	$418	33	
	Leaving a balance on hand of this fund of			$3 66

1854. FOREIGN MISSION FUND RECEIVED.

Oct. 3,	From Financial Committee of last Association, for Africa,	$3 25
	Among the Indians	5 36
	Not designated where	5 11
	Total amount of this fund received	$13 72

1854. FOREIGN MISSION FUND DISBURSED.

Oct. 3,	Sent to Ala. Baptist Convention by J. Talbert,	$13 75

1854. EDUCATION FUND RECEIVED.

Oct. 3,	From Financial Committee of last Association,	$14 00
	For the benefit of Howard College	1 00
	Total amount of this fund received	$14 00
1855, March 23,	Sent to Ala. Bap. State Convention, by J. Talbert,	$14 00

1854. BIBLE CAUSE FUND RECEIVED.

Oct. 3,	From Financial Committee of last Association	$24 75

1854. BIBLE CAUSE FUND DISBURSED.

Oct. 4, Am't paid W. J. Parker, Secretary of B. C..... $24 75

1854. CONTINGENT FUND RECEIVED.

Oct. 3, From Financial Committee of last Association..... $63 00
For Association Funds..... 2 00

Total amount of this fund received..... $65 00

1854. CONTINGENT FUND DISBURSED.

Oct. 3, Am't paid G. B. Jones, clerk per order of last Asso..... $63 00

Leaving a balance on hand of this fund,.....$2 00

All of which is respectfully submitted,

B. C. FOSTER, Treasurer.

J. Report on Finance.

The committee on Finance have had the subject under consideration, and beg leave to report:

For	Printing Minutes,.....	$67 35
"	Home Mission,.....	117 40
"	Bible Cause,.....	10 25
"	Association Fund,.....	8 00
"	African Mission,.....	3 00
"	Indian Mission,.....	0 00
"	Foreign Mission,.....	0 00
"	Education Fund,.....	0 00
"	Howard College,.....	0 00
"	Home Mission, in the bounds of Bethel Association,..	30 00
	Sum Total,.....	$236 30
	Collection on Sabbath H. M.....	38 63
	Amount sent up by Bro. Madison, General agent for the Association,.....	35 00
		$309 93

Yours respectfully, WM. RUSSELL, Ch'mn.

M. Report of Committee on Ministerial Education.

Your committee have no new suggestions to offer on the subject of Ministerial Education.—But would simply call the attention of the churches to the plan suggested in the report of last year, on the subject, viz: "For each church to raise and set apart a special fund for Ministerial Education, subject to the control of the church, to be paid to beneficiaries of Howard College laboring with them, or sent to the convention, as they prefer." And your committee would further add, that during the past assocational year, four of the churches connected with your body, paid to a beneficiary of Howard College, about two hundred dollars. *Will not all our churches follow their example!* All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. JACOB PARKER, for Com.

K.

Twelve years Account of Money designed for and paid over to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, by A. A. Connella, and others, for the Bethel Baptist Association, from 1844, *to* 1855, *inclusive.*

YEAR	By whom Sent.	See Asso. Min.	Con. Min'ts.	For'gn. Miss'n	Afri'n Mis'n.	Indi'n Mis'n.	Dom. Mis'n.	Education.	Bib. Cause	Pub. So.	Gen'l. Pur's.	Total.	REMARKS.
1844	A. A. Connella.	p. 12, 1845.	p 12, 1844.	$45 17	.....	.....	.....	56 80	.....	.....	.....	101 97	☞Wherever money was designated for "China," it has been added to the "Foreign Mission" line.
1845	L. B. Lane.	p, 6, 1846.	p 15, 1843.	.....	.....	.....	.....	16 80	.....	.....	.....	16 80	
1846	Not stated.	p. 7, 1846.	p 20, 1846.	.....	.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 00	
1847	A. A. Connella.	p. 8, 1848.	p 17, 1847.	17 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17 33	
1848	" "	p. 11, 1849	p 33, 1848.	7 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 05	19 80	Paid Bro. Davis for Indian Missions, see Minutes of Association for 1850, p. 14,.....$75 55
1849	Bro. Calloway.	p, 13, 1850.	p 22, 1849.	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 00	.....	.....	.....	15 00	
1850	A. A. Connella.	p. 11, 12, 1851.	p 26, 1850.	61 33	13 35	7 25	10 00	18 00	25	.....	5 00	115 18	
1851	" "	p. 22, 1855.	p 36, 1851.	22 22	4 50	2 50	20 00	60	5 70	.....	.....	55 52	*For California.
1852	" "	p. 25, 26, 1858.	p 33, 1852.	6 85	7 40	50	*8 50	.....	60	40	.....	24 25	☞The Minutes of the Association and Convention agree exactly with the exception of two small amounts being put in the wrong column by the printer of the Convention Minutes, 1850.
1853	L. L. Fox.	p. 18, 1854.	p 31, 1853.	2 70	.....	25	75	31 90	.....	.....	15 55	51 15	
1854			p 27, 1854.	5 11	3 25	5 36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 72	
1855			p 29, 1855.	.....	.....	5 00	.....	14 00	.....	.....	.....	19 00	
				168 46	28 50	20 86	49 25	153 10	6 55	40	32 60	459 72	

L. Standing Committees.

On the State of Religion—H. Creighton, E. B. Gwin, Josiah Jones.
On the missions of the Southern Baptist Convention—W. Jacob Parker, John I. Westbrook, W. L. Kelly.
Bible and Publication Causes—N. Goodwin, Jas. Dickinson and Wm. Morris.
On Ministerial Education—A. A. Connella, J. Daughdrill and S. Madison.
On Sabbath Schools—L. B. Lane, L. B. Bush and R. D. Marshall.
On Temperance—John Talbert, J. Reeves and F. C. Lowery.

MINUTES

OF THE

BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of the Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society was held with the Ulconush Church, near Coffeeville, Ala., at 2 o'clock, P. M, on the 8th day of Oct., 1855, J. G. Williams, one of the Vice Presidents, presiding.

The following persons became annual members by the payment of one dollar each: B. R. Thomas, J. Autery, R. M. Thomas, J Reeves, A. R. Williams, J. M. Todd, T. B. Pace, D. Matthews, Lewis Pope, G. B. Jones, E. A. Williams, E. A. Malone, C. S. Williams, A. F. Cobb, Lucretia Wiggins, J. C. Todd.

The following report was received from the Executive Board, and approved, viz:

Your Board have nothing special to communicate to your body, more than that there have been three quarterly meetings of the Society since your last annual session, at which between ninety and one hundred dollars were raised.

We have also procured a lot of Bibles and religious books, and have drawn on the Treasurer to the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars, and we hope to secure the services of a Colporteur soon to distribute the books now on hand and such other books as may be purchased hereafter.

And we avail ourselves of this opportunity to urge upon the churches of the Bethel Association, the importance of more liberally contributing their money in support of their own Bible Society, for it is impossible for your Board to purchase and distribute books without a larger amount of means than has hitherto been placed at their disposal.

Respectfully submitted. L. B. LANE, *Prest.*

W. JACOB PARKER, *Secy.*

The Treasurer was absent on account of sickness and consequently made no report.

The Society proceeded to elect a President and Secretary for the ensuing year. L. B. Lane was chosen President and W. Jacob Parker, Secretary.

A committee consisting of Brethren Marshall, Reeves and Jones were appointed to nominate the balance of the officers.

On motion the sum of ten dollars was appropriated to the Alabama Bible Society, and Brethren L. B. Lane, A. A. Connella, J. Reeves, J. Talbert, J. G. Williams, N. Goodwin and W. Jacob Parker were appointed to represent us in that body at its next annual meeting.

The committee on nomination reported the following officers, which report was approved:

For Treasurer, J. B. Bruce.

Vice Presidents, J. G. Williams, J. Talbert, Ed. Baptist, H. Creighton.

Board of Managers, L. B. Lane, W. C. Lipscomb, A. A. Connella, John J. Westbrook, W. Jacob Parker.

Bro. Marshall was instructed to request the Association to publish our

minutes in connection with theirs, and draw on our Treasurer for the amount necessary to defray the additional expense of publishing.

On motion the Board of Managers were requested to examine the report of the Treasurer, and have it appended to these minutes. See the following:

Treasurer's Report.

JOHN B. BRUCE in account with the B. B. and C. Society.

Oct. 2d, 1854.—Received of J. G. Hudson, former Treasurer,		$158 25
" " " Collected at Annual Meeting in McKinley,		54 75
Jan. 1855.—Paid in by A. A. Connella,		1 00
" " " " " Mrs. Caroline King		1 00
" " Collected at District Meeting at Linden,		33 00
" " " " " " Nanafalia,		31 10
" " " " " " " Jefferson,		26 70
Total receipts,		$305 80
Dec. 30th, 1854.—Paid to G. B. Jones for printing minutes, (Voucher I.)	$7 50	
Jan. 1855. " " A. A. Connella for Ala. B. B. Society, (V. II.)	10 00	
Oct. 30th, 1855. " " A. A. Connella for Depository, (V. III.)	150 00	
Paid out,	$167 10	
Balance on hand Nov. 1st, 1855,		$138 70

To the Board of the B. B. and C. Society:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Serious sickness and absence from home on that account prevented me from submitting my report as Treasurer to the Annual Meeting at Ulconush. I therefore submit it, as above, to you at this my earliest convenience. JNO. B. BRUCE, *Treas. B. B. and C. S.*

Dayton, Ala., Nov. 1st, 1855.

Address of the Ministers of the Association.

EDWARD BAPTIST, *Dayton*, Ala.	WM. RUSSELL, *Coffeeville*, Ala.
EDWARD G. BAPTIST, " "	J. G. WILLIAMS, *Nanafalia*, Ala.
A. A. CONNELLA, *Spring Hill*, "	B. W. HERRIN, " Ala.
W. J. PARKER, *Demopolis*, "	TRUEHEART TUCKER, *Shiloh*, "
F. C. LOWRY, *McKinley*, "	L. L. DEWITT, *Choctaw Corner*, "
JOHN TALBERT, " "	R. HICKSON, *Clifton*, "
J. REEVES, *Liberty Hill*, "	A. SALE, *Bethel*, "
N. THOMAS, *Pine Hill*, "	J. P. VAUGHN, *Camden*, "
H. CREIGHTON, *Grove Hill*, "	HUGER ADAMS, *Pine Hill*, "
WILLIAM HILL, " "	J. GREEN, *Shiloh*, "
N. GOODWIN, *Suggsville* "	R. M. THOMAS, *Bethel*, "

Licentiates.

T. H. BALL, *Jackson*, *Clarke County*, *Ala.*
A. J. STRINGER, " " "

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

I.—Hear the Letters from the Churches and make out the Roll.
II.—Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
III.—Extend the usual invitation to visiting Brethren.
IV.—Call for Petitions from Churches that may wish to unite with us.
V.—Appoint the following Committees to Report during the session:
1. To arrange the Preaching during the Meeting.
2. To prepare a Digest of the Letters from the Churches.
3. On Finance and Auditing.
4. On Documents and Requests.
5. On Nominations.
6. On Correspondence, and on any other subject that may require the labors of a Committee during the Session.

VI.—Call for Correspondence.
VII.—Have the Rules of Decorum read.
VIII.—Call and correct the Roll.
IX.—Hear the Annual Report of the Executive Board and refer it to such Committee or Committees as may be suitable.
X.—Call for the Minutes of the District Meeting and refer them to the Committee on Documents and Requests.
XI.—Hear the Treasurer's Annual Report and refer it to the Committee on Finance and Auditing.
XII.—Call for Reports of Committees in the order of their appointment.
XIII.—Give the necessary instructions about appropriating the funds.
XIV.—Appoint Committees to report at the next Session on the following subjects:
1. On the State of Religion.
2. On the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. On our Missionary operations among Whites and Blacks.
4. On Indian Missions.
5. On the Bible and Publication Causes.
6. On Ministerial Education.
7. On Sabbath Schools.
8. On Temperance.

XV.—Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions and Motions.
XVI.—Make arrangements for printing and distribution of the Minutes.
XVII.—Correct the Minutes and adjourn.